

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 18, 2005. Claims 1-24 were pending. By this Amendment, new claims 25-29 have been added, and claims 1-7, 11 and 18-24 have been amended to place the claims in better form for reconsideration without narrowing a scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-29 are now pending, with claims 1, 8-11, 18 and 25 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,357,543 to Hinokimoto. Claims 3-10, 13-17 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly obvious over Hinokimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,881,064 to Lin et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8-11, 18 and 25 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to a gateway unit that is connected to a packet network and a PSTN and realizes a real-time facsimile communication between a facsimile apparatus on the PSTN and a partner terminal unit on the packet network. Applicant devised an improved gateway unit that adjusts the required network bandwidth, which corresponds to a transmission speed set up between the facsimile apparatus and the partner terminal unit, to become equal to or narrower than the allocated network bandwidth (typically allocated by a gatekeeper unit). Thus, the packet network can be optimally shared by a plurality of terminals.

Hinokimoto, as understood by Applicant, is directed to data communication equipment configured to transmit over a public communication network a series of block data including time space with no signal between successive block data. Hinokimoto indicates that when data is

transmitted from one data communication equipment to another data communication equipment through the public switched telephone network, one must consider that errors occur in the data transmission line of the network.

Hinokimoto proposes data communication equipment which purportedly has improved transmission quality, data transfer rate and transmission efficiency, by protecting or preventing signal insertion in the no-signal spaces. Hinokimoto proposes data communication equipment 100 includes a high-speed modulator 104 which generates image block data at a high speed with no-signal spaces. Block datum is transmitted from the data communication equipment 100 to a data communication equipment 200. The transmission speed is adjusted according to a “training signal”, before data transmission commences, in order to evaluate the communication speed between the equipment via the public network.

However, Hinokimoto does not disclose or suggest adjusting the required network bandwidth to become equal to or narrower than the allocated network bandwidth, as provided by the claimed invention of claim 1. Hinokimoto does not teach or suggest that one should be concerned with network bandwidth. Indeed, it is acknowledged in the Office Action that Hinokimoto does not teach or suggest real-time facsimile communication via a packet network. Hinokimoto simply does not provide relevant teaching for enabling optimum sharing of a packet network by a plurality of terminals.

Lin, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a node system for use in a data communication network. Lin was cited in the Office Action as teaching use of a packet network and transmission of data packets over the network.

However, Lin, like Hinokimoto, fails to teach or suggest adjusting the required network bandwidth to become equal to or narrower than the allocated network bandwidth, as provided by

the claimed invention of claim 1.

Independent claims 8-11, 18 and 25 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

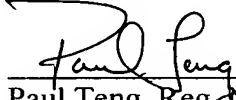
Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8-11, 18 and 25, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge the additional claims fees and any other fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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